

Decker Island Phase II Habitat Development and Levee Rehabilitation Project
(SCH No. 2003072084)
Addendum to the Notice of Determination

During the public comment period, which concluded on August 16, 2003, the Department of Water Resources received several letters from the agencies and the public for this project. Several of the comments and suggestions resulted in minor corrections to the Initial Study/Negative Declaration. We have decided for the sake of clarity and full disclosure to provide the corrections below as an addendum to the Notice of Determination for this project. Because they are almost exclusively minor corrections we have determined that they have no affect on the findings in the initial Study/ Negative Declaration.

(Page 6, Section 1.3.1) The acreage of the Department of Fish and Game Parcel is 32.5 acres, but the document also incorrectly lists the parcel as 34.5 acres (Section 1.4.1). All references to the Fish and Game Parcel size should read 32.5 acres.

(Page 8, Section 1.4.1.2) Consultations with the CDFG, USFWS, NMFS are continuing regarding listed native fishes, most notably the delta smelt and winter-run Chinook salmon. These discussions may result in minor modifications to created channels on Decker Island that would further benefit native species.

(Page 14, Section 2.3.2.1) If threatened or endangered plants are encountered, the first choice will be to avoid impacting the population. The plants will be transplanted only if there is no feasible alternative.

(Page 15, Section 2.3.1 & Page 23, Section 2.4.4.2) On both of these pages the document refers to Consultation being initiated on June 18, 2003. This is changed to "Informal Consultation" to accurately describe what took place during the meeting.

(Page 16, Section 2.3.2.2) Burrowing owl is added to the list of sensitive species. The project will follow approved Department of Fish and Game mitigation and passive exclusion protocols if burrowing owls are encountered in the project area.

(Page 20, Section 2.4.4.1) The mitigation ratios for Riparian Forest and Scrub Shrub are described a 3:1 for both habitat types. While the 3:1 ratio is correct for Riparian Forest, the ratio for scrub shrub habitat replacement should read to 2:1 for this project. The total acres remain a 16.59 acres.

(Page 23, Section 2.4.4.2) Within the fish heading for Jersey and Bradford islands there are references to Van Sickle Island, they should be referring to Bradford and Jersey. The two references in this paragraph referring to waterways adjacent to Van Sickle and no impacts to the waterside of Van Sickle Island are changed to Bradford and Jersey islands.

(Page 27, Section 2.4.4.2) At the end of the first paragraph on page 27, reference to Section 2.3.2.1 (Impacts/Mitigation on Van Sickle Island –TES Plants) is incorrect and should be changed to Section 2.3.2.2 (Impacts/Mitigation on Van Sickle Island – TES Wildlife).

(Page 32, 2.4.7) Although DFG did use herbicides to control invasive weeds on Decker Island Phase I, DFG used no chemical control on giant cane (Arundo donax) as was stated in the document.

(Page 38, 2.4.15) The Recreation discussion is amended to read: The project does not include plans for providing recreational opportunities. The protection of wildlife habitat and the increase in in-channel and slough habitats on Decker Island, however, will increase potential hunting and fishing opportunities within the Delta. There is concern that the project will impact access for recreation from the work done on the Bradford Island levees. The potential loss of recreational opportunities as the result of this project is less than significant impact under California Environmental Quality Act. There will be short-term use of the levee road by contractor's equipment, but this should not impair the ability of landowners to access their lands for recreation or other purposes. Furthermore this project has no waterside work and recreational boating and fishing will not be affected.